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Farewell Letter of the Swiss Ambassador

Dear fellow Citizens,

After almost 3 wonderful years in Canada I am moving back to Berne in the coming month of May. Once more, I am being called upon to succeed my predecessor in Canada, Ambassador Urs Ziswiler, who will shortly leave Berne for his new assignment in Washington.

It goes without saying that my wife and I, who have quickly bonded with Canada and its people during our short stay, leave this beautiful country with mixed feelings. Our program being laid out for four years, it was impossible to see and do everything that we should have. During the first two years I was often away from Ottawa because of my United Nations mandate. Then I took up the race to catch up on all the activities I had missed during that first part. While we couldn't do all we wanted, we

have developed many close links to people and places which will be painful to give up. We hope that some, at least, will continue.

It has also been an extremely interesting time professionally, with a great many political upheavals and surprises in Canada and around the world. Bilateral relations between Switzerland and Canada, two countries with a very likeminded approach to most international issues, have deepened through numerous delegation visits and common undertakings. Trade has increased substantially in both directions, as have cultural exchanges. My successor who will arrive from Berlin during the second half of May will have a lot of work waiting for him.

Above all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the far flung Swiss community of Canada for the warm welcome my wife and I have received where ever we went and for the fruitful cooperation between the different Swiss associations and the Embassy in Ottawa.

Anton Thalman

Immigration Expertise

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1906 2006

SWITZERLAND
100 YEARS
OF PRESENCE IN TORONTO

Dear Compatriots,

The Canadian Federation was not yet 40 years old, and Toronto was still an urban island in a predominantly rural Ontario, when Switzerland, in the Spring of 1906, opened a consular office in the city. The Swiss government's decision to locate in Toronto showed the importance of the city at the time. Our uninterrupted presence here for 100 years testifies the significance Toronto has achieved over the years in Canada and throughout the world.

Switzerland began its official presence modestly by setting up an Honorary Consulate. Back then, the Swiss Foreign Ministry for the most part did not send diplomats to represent its interests abroad. Instead, it entrusted private citizens with the task. The operation was a one-man show until April 1, 1949, when the first career Consul was appointed to Toronto. Our representation was upgraded to a Consulate General in 1965. In 1975, the jurisdiction of the Consulate General in Toronto, which to that point had covered the Province of Ontario, was extended to cover also the Provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In 1999, it was extended yet again, to include the Territory of Nunavut.

Although early settlers of Swiss origin, among them a number of Mennonites, arrived in Upper Canada in the 1780s, the first important Swiss immigration to Ontario took place in the 19th century. These immigrants were mostly farmers, traders, labourers and factory workers. A second and larger wave began in the years following World War II, contributing, together with many other immigrant communities, to the economic expansion and success of Canada. Today, the community of Swiss and Swiss descendants in Canada – more than 36,000 strong – is, after the United States, the second largest on the American continent. Coming under the jurisdiction of the Consulate General in Toronto, 11,500 people of Swiss origin live in Ontario (6,000 of them in the Greater Toronto Area), and 1,000 call Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut home.

Interestingly, parallels may be drawn between the growth and the structure of the Swiss community and the presence and activities of the Swiss consular representation in Toronto. In the early years the latter were modest. Over time they evolved, becoming more diversified and adapted to the needs and priorities of people and businesses alike. The significance and influence of the global economy are symptomatic of this evolution, as is the development of telecommunication and information technologies, which have definitely revolutionized our role and our relationship with our compatriots, customers, and partners.

Today, Switzerland is the seventh major investor in Canada, and the exchange of goods and services between the two countries has been rising constantly. Led by pharmaceuticals, machinery, chemicals and watches, Swiss exports to Canada reached the CAD 2.1-billion mark in 2005, 70% of which was absorbed by the Province of Ontario alone. In the same

period, Canada's exports to Switzerland amounted to CAD 800 million, the bulk of which were related to pharmaceuticals, machinery, vehicles, aircrafts and paper goods. Tourism is an important source of revenues for both countries too. Canada and Switzerland are blessed with breathtaking sceneries, attracting every year more tourists to discover and enjoy those beauties, while stimulating and enhancing a better knowledge and understanding of each other's culture.

This year, we can proudly look back at 100 years of successful official Swiss presence in Toronto and at the same time celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (Ontario). This is an important milestone, and the Canadian Swiss community, together with a lively club and a dynamic and creative business sector, which contributes to the continuous growth of bilateral economic relations, are closely linked to it. Hard work, entrepreneurship, skills, traditions, and moral and social values have helped to develop and still embody the Swiss Canadian partnership. Our gratitude goes to Toronto, Canada, and its people, who, by opening themselves to the world and welcoming, among many others, immigrants from Switzerland and offering them new opportunities, have laid a solid and stable foundation for a relationship based on friendship, trust, and respect.

So let us pause and reflect on what we have achieved together, but let us also rejoice, celebrate, and look confidently to a bright future together.

Jean-Claude Hagmann
Consul General



SWISS CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (ONTARIO) INC.

President's Message

Forty years ago, a small group of stalwart Swiss living and working in Toronto formed what is now the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (Ontario), assuming a mission to promote commercial, industrial and financial relations between Switzerland and Canada. Today, the Chamber continues to play a prominent role in this regard encompassing a variety of formats. Our Chamber welcomes distinguished guest speakers, hosts business presentations from both Switzerland and Canada, and provides inviting venues within which Canadian and Swiss businesspeople have the opportunity to 'network'. Additionally, through social events, the Chamber transcends the world of business to give our members time to get to know each other on a more personal level. Our members also benefit from the close working relationship between the Chamber and the Swiss Consulate General in Toronto.

The Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce enhances our members' understanding and capacity to carry on business successfully in an increasingly complex global business environment. We are proud to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce (Ontario) along with the 100th anniversary of the official presence of the Government of Switzerland in Toronto.

Robert C. Kay,
President

Switzerland is waiting for a winner – will it be you?

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Swiss Representation in Toronto we would like to send you to Switzerland and invite you to look out for our contest to win a return trip for two from Montreal to Zurich in business class – courtesy of **Swiss International Air Lines Ltd.** as well as two 7-days first class Swiss rail passes offered by **Switzerland Tourism/Swiss Travel System** and 7 nights accommodation in **Best Western** hotels in Switzerland.

The contest is open to all legal residents in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Nunavut over the age of majority in the province/territory in which he/she resides. Complete contest rules will be announced on the website www.eda.admin.ch/canada as of mid-April as well as in the June issue of the "Swiss Review".

Contest application forms can also be ordered directly from the Consulate General of Switzerland in Toronto (Tel. 416/593-5371, ext. 227) as of mid-April.



Swiss Travel System



Swiss Club of Manitoba News

At the Annual General Meeting, held at the Headingley Community Centre, which was very well attended, the interim Board members were re-elected:

President:	Ueli Messerli	268 2190
Vice-President:	Marie Vallotton	827 2119
Treasurer:	Hanna Schlup	268 3359, hschlup@highspeedcrow.ca
Secretary:	Rainer Rössing	726 5010, rainer.rossing@gmail.com
Directors:	François Carrard	728 4609,
	Jacob Fehr	424 9745
	Hans Muster	265 3494, hamuster@mts.net
	Anne Boyd	831 1635, sboyd1@mts.net
	Heinz Kornmeyer	475 7690

We decided to have two directors in Winnipeg to encourage more participation of the Swiss living in the City!

We discussed the annual fees, but for this year we decided to leave them as they are. We have read through the

Bi-Laws—from which the board will come up with a proposal for change to be voted on at the next AGM. We also planned the events for 2006.

The **Swiss Picnic's** will be held at the following locations:

In Aarborg, at the Bühlmann Farm on May 28. or June 4. 2006
Please call Oscar or Rosemary, 376 2254

In Brandon, at the Carrard Farm on June 25.2006.
Please call Francois or Gloria, 728 4609

In Beausejour, at the Muster Farm on June 11. 2006.
Please call Hans or Anita 265 3494

The **August 1st Celebration** will be held again at two places:

In the West at the Vallotton Farm in Stockton
Please call Marie or Pierre 827 2119

In the East at the River Ranch Farm in Beausejour
Please call Urs or Hanna 268 3359

Please plan to attend these events and join the Swiss Club!

Thank you for your participation!

Only the paid members will receive the News-Letter.

Best Regards
Hanna Schlup

Letter from the Prairies

A few weeks after the Olympic Games in Turin, which we all watched, there will be the Paralympic Games at the same place. These are the games for persons with disabilities, who compete much in the same way as regular olympians do. I have always been in awe of the degree of bravery which must be involved in overcoming handicaps in order to compete. Therefore, I admire the efforts of those athletes immensely. For years now, the Swiss club Saskatoon has had a direct connection to the Parolympics: their head coach for nordic sports, biathlon and cross-country skiing, is the Swiss-Canadian and club member Kaspar Wirz of Saskatoon. We in Saskatchewan will watch the 2006 Parolympics of Torino with special pride!

Saskatchewan experienced the mildest month of January in probably a hundred years. At least nobody can remember a winter like it. Oh yes, we have our regular snow

and we have ice galore, but the temperatures never reached that brutal level we are used to. February started out in the same fashion. Perhaps we will be lucky this month also? Some notice that the sky is overcast more often. The sun is hiding and that seems to go hand in hand with mild temperatures. We are not complaining, though!

Unfortunately, the streets were extremely icy the day of our Raclette Party on February 5. This prevented many people from out of town from attending. Those who made it enjoyed a wonderful time at the home of Annemarie and Heinz Buchmann.

We are looking forward to our Jass tournament, which will take place on April 1 (no joke!) at the home of Elisabeth Eilinger. Please consult the Quarterly Newsletter for details.

Louise Grassmann

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Swiss Crossbow Association Vancouver

It is still winter in our area which makes it difficult to write about Crossbow shooting! My thoughts are geared towards skiing even though the snow has melted from our doorsteps but Sovereign Lake Cross Country Club and Silver Star are still getting a fair amount of the fluffy stuff.

Nevertheless, spring will soon be here and with it the beginning of another shooting season. We will have to practice hard this Spring as we will be travelling to Switzerland in July for a Swiss Federal Crossbow Shooting Festival which will be held in Ettiswil/LU. It will be great to meet our many friends with whom we participated in a postal match or who made the trip to Canada and visited us at our range.

At our Annual General Meeting we decided our shooting dates and the annual program for the coming season. Quite a few swiss clubs are celebrating a "round" anniversary and we usually support their festivities by competing with them via postal match. We have quite a few trophies that are up for grabs and each year we set aside a Sunday in August to shoot for some of these. This is always a fun day with lots of competition as we are trying to beat each others score and hope to be the winner.

At the AGM of the Swiss Society we will be putting forward our decision to leave the SSV as a sub-group and join the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association. We have thought about this step for a long time and found it necessary for the survival of our group. It also makes sense to have all the shooting activities under "one roof". We have had discussions with the SSV Board and hope for a smooth transition.

If you have never shot with a crossbow make it a resolution for this year! Come on up to the range on one of our shooting dates and we will introduce you to a great sport.

2006 Shooting dates:

April 9 & 23

May 7 & 21

June 4 & 18

July 6-16 we are at the Eidgenössische!

July 30 ? some of us may be back.

August 13 & 27

September 10 & 24

October 7/8 Schützenfest

October 22 Endshoot

November 18 Absenden/Awards Presentation

Enjoy the remainder of winter and look forward to a beautiful dry spring.

Elisabeth Reymond



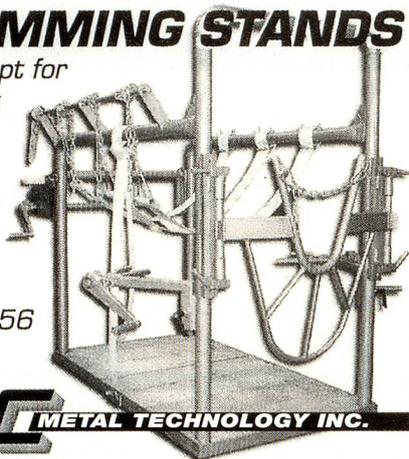
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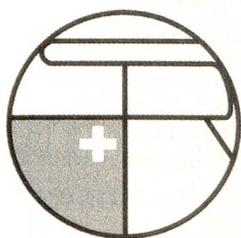
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Société Suisse Romande

Lors de notre assemblée générale du 18 février 2006 au Vieux Kitzbühel à l'île Perrot, nous avons eu le plaisir d'accueillir de nouvelles personnes au sein de notre société. Nous leur souhaitons la bienvenue et c'est avec une grande joie que nous constatons que le nombre de membres ne cesse d'augmenter.

Notre comité, composé de Jeannette Perriard, présidente, Frédéric Fonjallaz, vice-président, Denise Perriard, trésorière, Manuela Fuchs, secrétaire, Charles Gobat, Serge Gobat, Bernard Mathieu, Sébastien Schneeberger et Marie-Claire Vogt, administrateurs, est heureux de vous présenter la liste des activités prévues pour cette année :

Samedi 8 avril	Soirée Fondue (après 10 ans d'absence !)
Dimanche 18 juin	Journée champêtre à St-Majorique (Drummondville)
Samedi 29 juillet	Participation à la Fête nationale suisse au Mont Sutton
Dimanche 10 septembre	Raclette à Bellefeuille
Samedi 18 novembre	Choucroute à Ste-Brigide D'Iberville

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News from the . . .



On our Annual General Assembly in February we had some changes in our Committee and we elected a new President, ad interim, Mrs. Susanna Hane. She is a former President and very well suited for the position.

We meet every second Tuesday of the month at the St. Moritz Restaurant at 7.30 pm.

We welcome new members with open arms.

Heidi Haeni

Committee:

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Vice President:	Joanne Spirig
Secretary:	Alice Hermann
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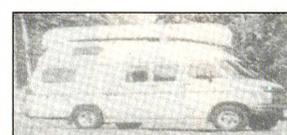
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